Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, women's athletics is one of the most effective avenues available through which women of America may develop self-discipline, initiative, confidence, and leadership skills; and,

WHEREAS, Sport and fitness activity contributes to emotional and physical well-being and women need strong bodies as well as strong minds; and,

WHEREAS, The history of women in sports is rich and long, but there has been little recognition of the significance of women's athletic achievements; and,

WHEREAS, The number of women in the leadership positions of coaches, officials, and administrators has declined drastically over the last decade and there is a need to restore women to these positions to ensure a fair representation of women's abilities and to provide role models for young female athletes; and,

WHEREAS, The bonds built between women through athletics help to break down the social barriers of racism and prejudice; and,

WHEREAS, The communication and cooperation skills learned through athletic experience play a key role in the athlete's contributions at home, at work, and to society; and,

WHEREAS, Women's athletics has produced such winners as Flo Hyman, whose spirit, talent, and accomplishments distinguished her above others and exhibited for all of us the true meaning of fairness, determination, and team play; and,

WHEREAS, Early motor-skill training and enjoyable experiences of physical activity strongly influence life-long habits of physical fitness; and,

WHEREAS, The athletic opportunities for male students at the collegiate and high school level remain significantly greater than those for female students; and,

WHEREAS, The number of funded research projects focusing on the specific needs of women athletes is limited and the information provided by these projects is imperative to the health and performance of future women athletes:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 4, 1987, as

NATIONAL WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

in South Dakota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Governor's Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of January, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Seven

GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE